

Appl. No. 10/770,619

Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner's reasoning in the Advisory Action is that

"In addition, applicants attempt to attribute the ratio of silica to binder only including binder that has been cross-linked. The claims are not so limited."

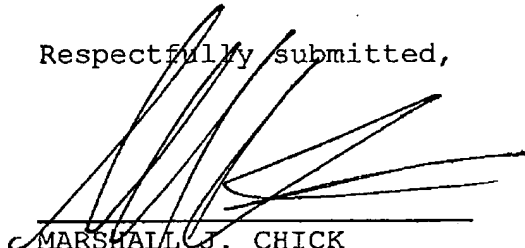
It is submitted that the Examiner is incorrect in her interpretation of the claims as they were presented in the last AMENDMENT. The claims clearly require "a porous layer containing micro particles of ground silica and a hydrophilic binder which is cross-linked with ionizing radiation," and "a weight ratio of the micro particles of ground silica to the hydrophilic binder in the porous layer is from 2.5:1 to 20:1". That is to say, the hydrophilic binder is the cross-linked binder and the claims are so limited. However, to attempt to avoid the issue, applicants have added the term "cross-linked" to the term "hydrophilic binder" in each of claims 1, 5 and 6.

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In view of the explanation provided hereinabove and the further amendment to the claims, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider the arguments made in the last AMENDMENT and issue a favorable action on the merits.

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Respectfully submitted,



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